

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-80 (cancelled).

¹
Claim ~~81~~ (new): An isolated and purified polynucleic acid encoding a biologically active STRAP polypeptide, wherein the STRAP polypeptide is at least about 99% identical to a sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2.

²
Claim ~~82~~ (new): The polynucleic acid of claim ~~81~~¹, wherein the STRAP polypeptide is SEQ ID NO: 2.

³
Claim ~~83~~ (new): The polynucleic acid of claim ~~81~~¹, wherein the polynucleic acid has the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1.

⁴
Claim ~~84~~ (new): The polynucleic acid of claim ~~81~~¹, further defined as comprising at least a 1,000 nucleotide long contiguous stretch of the polynucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

⁵
Claim ~~85~~ (new): The polynucleic acid of claim ~~81~~¹, in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim ~~86~~ (new): The polynucleic acid of claim 81, further defined as a DNA segment.

⁷
Claim ~~87~~ (new): A recombinant vector comprising the polynucleic acid of claim ~~81~~¹.

⁸
Claim ~~88~~ (new): The recombinant vector of claim ~~87~~⁷, wherein the vector is a recombinant expression vector.

⁹
Claim ~~89~~ (new): The recombinant vector of claim ~~87~~⁷ in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

¹⁰
Claim ~~90~~¹⁰ (new): A recombinant host cell comprising the recombinant vector of claim ~~87~~⁷.

¹¹
Claim ~~91~~¹¹ (new): The recombinant host cell of claim ~~90~~¹⁰, wherein the host cell is a prokaryotic cell.

¹²
Claim ~~92~~¹² (new): The recombinant host cell of claim ~~90~~¹⁰, wherein the host cell is a eukaryotic cell.

¹³
Claim ~~93~~¹³ (new): The recombinant host cell of claim ~~90~~¹⁰ in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

⁶
Claim ~~94~~⁶ (new): A method of preparing a STRAP polypeptide, comprising: transforming a cell with the polynucleic acid of claim ~~81~~⁶ to produce STRAP under conditions suitable for the expression of said polypeptide.